# VAMPIRELLA®

MONTHLY 4

MORRISON ❖ MILLAR
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HARRIS COMICS

HOLY WAR 1 OF 3

SMALL
STULL
JD SMITH '97

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## about our cover

### VAMPIRELLA NUMBERING SYSTEM

For all you sticklers for mindless info., chronic complainers, trivial pursuitists, numerologists, and quantum theorists, here is a simple, easy-to-follow diagram detailing the new Vampirella monthly numbering system. Since Vampirella will read in three or four issue story arcs, each monthly issue will have a story arc title and a corresponding number as well as the actual ongoing monthly #.

story arc issue #

# of issues in story arc

actual issue number of the monthly

story arc title

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SHHH!

WHISPER WHO DARES.

VAMPIRELLA IS SAYING HER PRAYERS...

...I SAW YOU IN CHURCH...

DID YOU?

THEY SAY THE WORLD WILL END SOON. DO YOU BELIEVE IT?

...SO YOU'D BETTER BE QUICK IF YOU WANT TO CATCH ME.

HAHAHA

FLYING INTO A STORM OF WINGS AND BITES AND KISSES.

CIRCE FIRST, THEN SATYR SETS.

IN THE HOT INFRA-RED TWILIGHT OF DRAKULON IT BEGINS TO RAIN BLOOD.

BLOODY SURF FROTHS ON THE ROCKS.

ANOTHER PERFECT NIGHT BEGINS.

THEY SAY THE OCEANS WILL DRY AND THE STARS WILL FALL AND WE'LL ALL DIE OF THIRST.

DRAKULON? WHAT'S DRAKULON?

BISHOP?

I'M AFRAID THAT'S CLASSIFIED.

AT LEAST THE TRANSFUSION SEEMS TO BE WORKING; THE SUPER-VIRUS OUR ENEMIES DOSED HER WITH IS SUCCUMBING TO THE ALIEN ANTIBODIES.

NNNNUUMM

I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE BOX.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WHITE BISHOP?

A TECH-TEAM IS EN ROUTE TO CONVERT HIS VEHICLE AND PERFORM THE STANDARD SPACETIME SUBTRACTION PROCEDURE.

CONTACT ME AS SOON AS SHE RECOVERS.

ROME:

...YOUR PLAN WAS FOOLPROOF AND YET SHE ESCAPED?

I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT **HIS UN-HOLINESS** IS NOT PLEASED WITH YOUR... **PERFORMANCE,** VON KREIST.

FIRST OF ALL, **MONSIGNOR SCARLATTI,** OUR ENEMIES HAPPENED TO BE MORE RESOURCEFUL AND ORGANIZED THAN WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE.

I WILL ASSUME **FULL** RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEN UNDER MY COMMAND BUT... WHAT HAPPENED WAS **UNAVOIDABLE.**

WE WERE DEALING WITH HIGHLY-TRAINED FANATICS.

WE WERE COMPLETELY UNPREPARED.

THIS KIND OF SLOPPINESS IS BECOMING TOO **TYPICAL** OF OUR AMERICAN OPERATIONS. HERE IN ROME, WE EXPECT CERTAIN **STANDARDS** TO BE KEPT.

MAY I TELL **YOU** SOMETHING: I AM NOT AN AMERICAN. I AM A **GERMAN...**

... AND I EXPECT ACCURATE **IN-FORMATION** FROM YOUR PEOPLE...

" FOR INSTANCE...

" WHY DID NO ONE SEE FIT TO INFORM US THAT THE... *OPPOSITION* HAD SOMEHOW FOUND STRENGTH TO CLAW ITS WAY BACK FROM THE DEFEAT WE INFLICTED UPON THEM IN THE *BLOODY SUNDAY* MASSACRE?

" I SEEM TO RECALL TURNING THIRTY-FIVE OF THOSE STAINLESS BRIDES-OF-CHRIST INTO VAMPIRE *WHORES* FOR OUR ORDER.

" IT WAS A PARTICULARLY SATISFYING TIME IN MY LIFE, BUT I HAD NO DESIRE TO REPEAT IT.

" THE VERY LAST THING I EXPECTED WAS THAT YOUR *PEOPLE* HAD SOMEHOW ALLOWED OUR ENEMIES TO RE-GROUP.

" YOU SIT THERE LIKE A PIG IN ITS OWN FILTH AND SPEAK TO ME OF 'STANDARDS!' "

KA-CHAK

CHAK

" RIGHT UNDER THEIR ROMAN NOSES.

" WHY WERE WE NOT TOLD THAT THE SISTERHOOD WAS STILL ACTIVE, MONSIGNOR SCARLATTI ? "

YOU GET VAMPIRELLA AND THE GIRL...

...I'LL SAVE SOME SINNERS' SOULS.

PAX VOBISCUM, SUCKER!

EEARRR!

WHUNCH

FSSSSS

NNNAAA!

SSSSBURNING!

GET IT OFF! ISS BURNING THROUGH MY...

" IT WAS PATHETIC TO WATCH..."

"THE SMOKE CANISTERS THEY USED WERE LACED WITH A *GARLIC* EXTRACT.

"MY MEN WERE CHOKED AND BLINDED, REDUCED TO HELPLESSNESS."

KROOM

YOU'RE *DIXIE*, RIGHT?

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE. WE'RE GETTING YOU OUT OF--

WATCH OUT!

" THESE WOMEN, OR THEIR *MASTERS*, ARE VERY *CREATIVE*."

NO PROBLEM. IS *VAMPIRELLA* STILL ALIVE?

I THINK...

UHHHH

BLOOD... NEED BLOOD...

I DON'T BELIEVE THE CROSS HAS BEEN USED QUITE SO INVENTIVELY SINCE THE DAYS OF YOUR ROMAN ANCESTORS.

YES.

BUT WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU DOING AT THIS POINT, VON KREIST?

"AS I EXPLAINED, I HAD PLACED A CONTROL COLLAR AROUND THE NECK OF THE CHILD OF DON FATTONI. ELECTRICAL NERVE STIMULATION COMPELLED HER TO OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND."

JUMP.

UH.

NOOOOO!

"I WAS MAKING SURE THE COLLAR STILL WORKED."

"AND WHITTLING DOWN THE OPPOSITION."

...MARY, MOTHER OF GOD..

...I DON'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS...

WE WILL MEET *AGAIN*, MY DEAR.

AND ON THAT DAY, I WILL MAKE YOU *CRAWL* AND LICK THE BLOOD OF YOUR SISTERS FROM MY BOOTS.

NUHHH...

SICK... I'MM SICK...

CHUMF

AND I'M BRITTANY.

FLY ME.

KWUUM

GOODBYE, BABY...

AND AMEN.

NNNNUUUGGHH

"WITHIN MOMENTS, THE NUNS HAD DESTROYED OUR TRANSPORT, KILLED OUR SOLDIERS, AND ESCAPED WITH OUR *PRISONERS.*"

HNN

"AND ALL *THIS* FROM AN ORDER THAT SHOULD NO LONGER EVEN *EXIST,* MONSIGNOR SCARLATTI.

"I MUST CONCEDE THAT IF I HADN'T MADE IT TO THE *COCKPIT,* THE OPERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN A *COMPLETE* FAILURE.

"FORTUNATELY, BY SOME *MIRACLE,* I WAS ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE HELICOPTER LONG ENOUGH TO AIM IT TOWARDS A CHILDREN'S *PLAY AREA.*

"SMALL MERCIES, I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE."

YET YOU *FAILED* TO BRING US VAMPIRELLA.

AND MAY I REMIND YOU; WE ARE NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF CHILD GENOCIDE, VON KREIST...

TOO BAD.

I HAPPEN TO BE AN *EXPERT* IN THE FIELD.

AND I WILL RISE AGAIN AND FIND YOU AND KILL *YOU* AND EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR *BLOODLINE*.

BE THANKFUL I AM ON *YOUR* SIDE, MONSIGNOR SCARLATTI.

THESE OUTRAGEOUS ACTS SIMPLY DRAW ATTENTION TO US...

YOU ARE NOT IN *AMERICA* NOW, VON KREIST; ANY MORE OF YOUR SHOWBIZ *IDIOSYNCRASIES* AND I WILL HAVE TO CUT YOU INTO A MILLION PIECES..

I AM VON KREIST.

I WILL EXPECT YOU TO OVERLOOK MY..... *IDIOSYNCRASIES* IN THE FUTURE.

VAMPIRELLA IS *HERE*, IN ROME WITH THE SISTERHOOD.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF HIDING A *TRACKING DEVICE* IN THE FATTONI GIRL'S COLLAR...

=NNG=

I'LL TAKE OVER HERE.

THEY WANT YOU DOWNSTAIRS SO THAT DUNSTAN CAN TAKE THAT COLLAR THING OFF YOUR NECK.

UH, SURE... I GUESS I SHOULD.

I THINK.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M SUPPOSED TO PRAY TO JESUS TO MAKE A VAMPIRE GET WELL... IT SEEMS KINDA BLASPHEMOUS, BUT I GUESS I SHOULD TRY ANYWAY.

DON'T WORRY.

SHE GOT A TRANSFUSION FROM THE BLOOD SUPPLY THE BISHOP BROUGHT IN.

THEY HAVE GALLONS OF THE STUFF IF SHE NEEDS IT.

TAKE THE STAIRS ON THE RIGHT.

THANKS FOR SAVING ME TODAY.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR THE LADIES IN RED.

AND YOU'D HAVE CHEWED MY BUTT OFF IF I HADN'T, REVEREND MOM.

HEY, BAMBINO.

IT'S WEIRD.

I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE--

DEET

--COLLAR.

ALERT YOUR PEOPLE, MONSIGNOR SCARLATTI. PREPARE THE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF THIS BUILDING.

I WILL SHOW YOU 'SHOW-BIZ'.

OH, NO.

Uh!

DIXIE!

HI.

SHOWERS ARE DOWN THE HALL. THE BLOOD'S AT BODY TEMPERATURE.

VAMPIRELLA!

VAMPIRELLA!

WHERE DID ALL THIS BLOOD COME FROM?

THIS IS LIKE BEING...

VAMPIRELLA, WE...

...WE LOST THE GIRL.

DIXIE.

SHE'S GONE.

THE SISTERHOOD HAS EXISTED, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, WITHIN THE CHURCH FOR EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS.

THIS CONVENT SELECTS THE **BEST** PHYSICAL SPECIMENS AND INSTRUCTS THEM IN STATE-OF-THE ART VAMPIRE-KILLING TECHNIQUES.

IN OUR HEYDAY, DURING THE **INQUISITION**, WE HAD SEVERAL THOUSAND SISTERS, NOW THERE ARE ONLY TWENTY-THREE...

THAT'S ALL I **NEED**.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG IF YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY A COUPLE OF GALLON TANKS OF HOLY WATER.

YOU CAN'T TALK LIKE THAT TO MOTHER SUPERIOR.

I'M SURE SHE THINKS SHE CAN DO WHAT SHE LIKES. SHE'S PRACTICALLY **INVULNERABLE**.

MY GOD, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MORE MAGNIFICENT THAN I REMEMBER, VAMPIRELLA. I USED TO TELL PEOPLE YOU WERE LIKE A **GODDESS**.

I'D FORGOTTEN THE **SMELL**, LIKE IRON...

IF THIS IS A COME ON, I DON'T **DO** OLD NUNS.

I DON'T THINK WE'VE EVER MET BEFORE

BUT SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW WELL-FORTIFIED THE ANTI-VATICAN IS. SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW FAR HIS UNHOLINESS WILL GO TO PROTECT HIS INTERESTS.

YOU CHANGED MY--

**MOTHER SUPERIOR!** MORE BAD NEWS, I'M SORRY.

**VON KREIST'S** IN ROME.

SO, YOU'RE PRETTY **OLD**, SIGNOR VON KREIST? I MEAN, LIKE I ONLY JOINED THE BLOOD-LINE BACK IN THE '60'S.

LA DOLCE VITA, YEAH?

IT'S JUST... I DON'T THINK I EVER MET ANY OTHER VAMPIRE LIKE YOU.

UNDERSTAND THIS: I AM NOT A VAMPIRE.

I AM NOT A ZOMBIE.

I AM **VON KREIST.**

IN 1918, AT THE END OF THE WAR...

I WAS AN OFFICER IN THE PRUSSIAN ARMY...

"NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THE **SCALE** OF THE SLAUGHTER AND THE DESOLATION. IT WAS LIKE THE WORLD HAD ENDED.

"I SAW MEN BEING EATEN BY **DOGS**. I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE A GIANT **WORM** TRYING TO BURY ITSELF IN THE DIRT, AND ONLY WHEN I HEARD IT SCREAMING THE NAME OF ITS **MOTHER**, DID I REALIZE IT WAS WHAT WAS LEFT OF A HUMAN BEING.

"AND IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL...

"... I MET A **MAN**."

" AND WE PLAYED CARDS.

" IF I LOST, HE TOLD ME, I WOULD FORFEIT MY SOUL. IF I WON, I WOULD HAVE MY HEART'S DESIRE.

" NEVER PLAY CARDS WITH THAT GENTLEMAN."

DAMN. YOU LOST?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I WAS AN EXCELLENT CARD PLAYER. I WON.

I GOT MY WISH AND LIVED FOREVER.

ONLY TO FIND THAT DEATH IS A NECES-SARY EVIL. DEATH LIBERATES THE SOUL, ALLOWING IT TO GROW.

MY SOUL, TRAPPED IN A BODY THAT COULD NOT DIE, BECAME STUNTED AND SOUR AND ROTTEN.

WHEN YOUR ENEMY HAS SOMETHING YOU WANT YOU HAVE ALREADY LOST.

EVEN AT FULL STRENGTH, I WOULD HESITATE TO FACE BOTH VAMPIRELLA AND THE SISTERHOOD.

BUT NOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING VAMPIRELLA WANTS.

SO LET'S MAKE HER WALK STRAIGHT INTO HELL TO GET IT.

"THE UNIQUE **HABIT**, WORN BY MEMBERS OF THE SISTERHOOD, IS A MASTERPIECE OF MICRO-TECHNOLOGY.

"THE RETRACTABLE CLAWS, CAN, OF COURSE, BE DIPPED IN ***HOLY WATER*** FOR ***MAXIMUM*** DAMAGE.

"BLOW ON THE FINGER PAD; YOU'LL GENERATE A SUBLIMINAL ***WHITE NOISE*** FIELD--

"IT'S LIQUID ***CHASTITY LATEX***. SEAMLESS ***AND*** IMPENETRABLE.

"THE HABITS ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF GENERATING A SINGLE HIGH-INTENSITY ***FLASH*** WHICH SIMULATES DAWN LIGHT AND HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE RETINAL AND TISSUE-SCARRING IN VAMPIRES.

"YOU CAN ACTIVATE THIS EFFECT BY SHOUTING '***FIAT LUX!***'

"MICROPORES SECRETE A SYNTHETIC ***GARLIC*** OIL.

"HANDY FOR SLIPPING OUT OF TIGHT SITUATIONS, VAMPIRELLA.

"-- WHICH RENDERS YOU COMPLETELY ***SILENT***, EVEN ON THE HIGHER FREQUENCIES WHICH VAMPIRES NORMALLY HEAR."

NEAT.

WHO PAYS FOR ALL THIS STUFF?

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR MAKE *REGULAR* COLLECTIONS. WE HAVE A NUN ON EVERY STREET CORNER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, DUNSTAN.

I DON'T REALLY THINK WE CAN *ALLOW* YOU TO WEAR THAT, VAMPIRELLA. THIS IS A *VAMPIRE HUNTING* ORDER.

AND YOU'RE A *VAMPIRE*, AREN'T YOU?

I WON'T TELL, IF YOU WON'T.

YOU REALLY DON'T EXPECT ME TO JUST LEAVE DIXIE IN THE HANDS OF A SADISTIC BASTARD LIKE VON KREIST, DO YOU?

I *KNOW* HOW TO HUNT VAMPIRES...

WHY *IS* THAT, I WONDER? WHY *ARE* YOU SO EAGER TO KILL YOUR OWN KIND? UNLESS... LISTEN TO ME: DIXIE WILL BE SAFE FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. I KNOW.

SHE WANTED TO TRY ON ONE OF OUR HABITS, MOTHER SUPERIOR. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SUIT HER...

I WAS THERE.

BEFORE I WAS MOTHER SUPERIOR MY NAME WAS *DIXIE FATTONI*.

I ALWAYS HATED IT.

NICE TRY.

DON'T WASTE MY TIME EVEN *TRYING* TO EXPLAIN THAT ONE.

THIS DART AMPOULE CONTAINS PURE *HOLY WATER*, A SUBSTANCE AS CORROSIVE AS *BATTERY ACID* TO A VAMPIRE.

SPLOT

SO WHY IS IT THAT YOUR LOVELY SKIN IS *UNTOUCHED*, MY DEAR?

THE CRUCIFIX HAS *NO* POWER TO REPEL YOU. HAVE YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE?

YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN, VAMPIRELLA.

I ONLY NEED A FEW MINUTES TO TEACH YOU. DIXIE WILL BE SAFE UNTIL THEN.

SIT DOWN FOR JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES...

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.

NEXT
VAMPIRICON: *The Secret Origin of* VAMPIRELLA!

# HOLY WAR

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